

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, and entry of this paper, is respectfully requested. The applicants have reviewed the Final Office Action of November 28, 2003, and respectfully assert that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-42 are presently pending. Claims 1, 15, 22, and 25 have been amended.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant notes the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 26-28, 30-33, 35 and 38-41.

III. Objections to the Drawings

Drawing Figs. 6 and 11 were objected to, as replacement sheets were not submitted in the previous response.

Replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 6 and 11 have been submitted with this paper. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that this objection has been cured.

IV. Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-42 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant asserts that independent claims 1, 15, 22, and 25 do not positively recite a faceplate or substrate member. In these claims, a single faceplate or substrate is being referenced only to describe the positively recited ring member that is configured for being rotatably coupled to it. These claims have been further amended to clarify this point.

A single faceplate or substrate member is positively recited as structure in dependent claims 2, 16, 36 and 37, and 42, respectively dependent on claims 1, 15, 22 and 25. Accordingly, for the reasons above, it is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1, 15, 22, and 25, and dependent claims 2, 16, 36, 37, and 42 are proper under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

It is asserted that dependent claims 3-14 and 26-30, 17-21 and 31-35, 23, 24 and 36-39, and 40 and 41, dependent on claims 1, 15, 22 and 25, are also proper under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the same reasons.

Since it is respectfully asserted that claims 1-42 are proper under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, all rejections based thereon should be withdrawn.

V. Rejections Under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-8, 11, 13-19, 21-25, 29, 34, 36, 37, and 42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,425).

Claims 1, 15, 22, and claim 25, as presently amended, are directed to handles having a ring member with a tab. The tab is configured such that when pressure is applied to the tab, it will allow the ring member to move outward. As a result of this structure, a hand can be inserted into the ring assembly to permit rotation of the ring member.

Chen discloses a table (1) for mounting to a steering wheel, by a support arc member (3). The support arc member (3) is pivotally mounted to the table (1), and in a closed or storage

position, the support arc member (3) is held close to the table (1) by a clamp (4), that engages a clamp axle (6) on the support arc member (3). When the table (1) is mounted to the steering wheel by the clamp (4) which is attached to the support arc member (3), the table is maintained in horizontal position for use.

In no way does pressure on the clamp of the support arc member move this member outward in Chen, as does the tab on the D-ring member of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Chen fails to show the structure of the claimed invention. Since Chen lacks the structure of claims 1, 15, 22, and 25, it can not anticipate these claims under 35 USC 102(e).

Since claims 1, 15, 22 and 25 are not anticipated by Chen under 35 USC 102(e), claims 2-8, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 23, 24, 29, 34, 36, 37 and 42, dependent on these claims, are not anticipated by Chen under 35 USC 102(b) for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention over Chen.

VI. Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 9, 10, 12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,425).

Claims 9, 10, and 12 are dependent on claim 1, while claim 20 is dependent on claim 15. Claims 1 and 15 have been discussed above. Those discussions are applicable here.

Chen has been discussed above. That discussion is applicable here. Chen, by showing an arc member for mounting a table to a steering wheel, fails to teach or suggest any handle structure, and therefore, fails to teach or suggest any handle structure that moves outward, when pressure is applied to a tab connected to the handle. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15 are non-obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Chen.

Since claims 1 and 15 are non-obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Chen, claims 9, 10, 12, and 20, respectively dependent thereon, are also non-obvious under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Chen for the same reasons. These claims additionally distinguish the invention over the cited art.

VII. Conclusion

The applicant notes the Examiner's citations of Malmanger (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,871), Esaki, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,450,735), Miyagawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,994), and Kaspar (U.S. Patent No. 5,339,487) to complete the record.

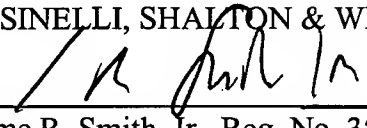
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments as to the form, content, or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, 1-42, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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